

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 00157 131217Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 PM-04 INR-07 OMB-01 SS-15 IGA-02

AID-05 /045 W

-----131226Z 028939 /14

R 131130Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5481

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, TC

SUBJ: EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN UAE MINISTRY OF PLANNING

1. UAE AMBASSADOR SAID GHUBBASH, WHO IS NEW UAE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SEE ABU DHABI'S 48), HAS BEEN IN ABU DHABI PAST WEEK TRYING TO LEARN A LITTLE BIT ABOUT HIS NEW RESPONSIBILITIES. HE WILL BE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON JANUARY 16 TO SPEND TWO WEEKS PACKING UP AND TO PAY HIS OFFICIAL FAREWELL CALLS. GHUBBASH HOPES TO CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY HABIB, ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTHON, AID ADMINISTRATOR PARKER, BOB OAKLEY IN NSC, AND TREASURY ASSISTANT SECRETARY PARSKY.

2. GHUBBASH HAS BEEN FRANK IN STATING THAT HE HAS NO EXPERIENCE OR BACKGROUND FOR HIS NEW JOB AS PLANNING MINISTER, A POSITION MADE DOUBLY DIFFICULT BY FACT THAT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING IS ASSOCIATED IN MINDS OF EMIREATE RULERS AS ENCROACHING UPON THEIR FREEDOM OF ACTION. UP TO NOW, DEVELOPMENT PLANNING HAS PRETTY MUCH BEEN PREROGATIVE OF EACH RULER WHICH HAS RESULTED IN GOOD DEAL OF UNNECESSARY AND AT TIMES WASTEFUL DUPLICATION (VIZ - THERE ARE NOW FOUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS IN UAE). ALTHOUGH MINISTRY OF PLANNING HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR SEVERAL YEARS,

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PAGE 02 ABU DH 00157 131217Z

IT HAS NEVER BEEN ABLE TO COORDINATE EFFECTIVELY ACTIONS OF DIFFERENT FEDERAL MINISTRIES, LET ALONG DEPARTMENTS IN INDIVIDUAL EMIRATES.

3. REASON WHY GHUBBASH BELIEVES HE WAS PICKED FOR JOB IS THAT UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID WANTS PLANNING MINISTRY TO PLAY A MUCH MORE ACTIVE ROLE, AND REDUCE WASTEFUL DUPLICATION.

IT NOT YET CLEAR WHAT POWERS GHUBBASH WILL BE GIVEN BY ZAYID OR IF HE WILL BE LEFT TO TRY AND FEND FOR HIMSELF -- THE MOST LIKELY POSSIBILITY AT THIS TIME, GHUBBASH DOES NOT CONCEIVE OF ANY DETAILED AND FORMALIZED PLAN, NOR DOES HE BELIEVE UAE SHOULD BE OF A LONG RANGE NATURE WHICH SHOULD FORM A GENERAL SET OF GUIDELINES

DIRECTED AT OBJECTIVES THAT UAE COULD REASONABLY ASPIRE TO IN NEXT 20 YEARS AND IN AREAS WHERE COUNTRY CLEARLY HAS COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES. GHUBBASH RECOGNIZES THAT IT WILL REQUIRE CONSUMMATE DIPLOMACY ON HIS PART TO GET INDIVIDUAL RULERS TO COOPERATE WITH HIS MINISTRY AND TO SUPPORT ANY NATION-WIDE PLAN, AND THAT DEVELOPMENT OF MANPOWER RESOURCES WILL REMAIN PRINCIPAL BAR TO UAE'S DIVERSIFIED DEVELOPMENT.

4. GHUBBASH WANTS TO DO A GOOD JOB AND AT MOMENT IS LOOKING FOR IDEAS. WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF HIS MINISTRY SEEKING ADVICE OF PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS SUCH AS STANFORD RESEARCH INSTITUTE OR FORD FOUNDATION, GETTING PLANNING ADVISORS FROM US UNDER REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (GHUBBASH IS AWARE OF PRESENCE OF AID REGIONAL OFFICER DODSON), ESTABLISHING A US-UAE JOINT COMMISSION (SOMETHING WHICH I HAVE DISCOURAGED), AND EMPLOYING THE SERVICES OF PRIVATE FIRMS TO HELP HIS MINISTRY UNDERTAKE DETAILED RESOURCE INVENTORY (INCLUDING MANPOWER). RE LATTER, HE HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN BECOMING MORE FAMILIAR WITH POTENTIAL FOR DETERMINING MINERAL AND WATER RESOURCES THROUGH USE OF US SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY.

5. I BELIEVE WE HAVE A REAL OPPORTUNITY TO WORK CLOSELY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ABU DH 00157 131217Z

WITH UAE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AT HIS FORMATIVE STATE AND EMBASSY WILL BE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING ANY REPORTS OF GHUBBASH CONVERSATIONS WITH WASHINGTON OFFICIALS. IT STRIKES ME THAT AT VERY LEAST, GHUBBASH MIGHT WELL BE PUT IN TOUCH WITH AID OFFICERS, SUCH AS GLENN LEHMAN OR PATRICK DEMONGEOT, WHO HAVE HAD WIDE AND VARIED EXPERIENCES WITH PLANNING MINISTRIES AND WHO HAVE HELPED THEM PURSUE MORE RATIONAL AND COMMON SENSE APPROACHES TO ECONOMIC PLANNING. DICKMAN

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## Message Attributes

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